KEMP, Sir Edward [Overseas Minister of Militia] July 1918 - February 1919

(008)

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TELEGRAPHIC AND CABLE ADDRESS
COMINISTER, LONDON

TELEPHONE : MAYFAIR, 6040

MINISTRY OF
OVERSEAS MILITARY FORCES OF CANADA

34 GROSVENOR STREET
LONDON, W. 1

FILE NO. R-166.

July 4, 1918.

Dear Sir Robert Falconer,

Lieut.-Col. G. Royce, C.A.M.C.

In reply to your letter of June 6th, I would be much obliged if you would take up this question, as well as that of the recall of other Medical Officers, in the first instance with the Department of Militia & Defence, Ottawa. We have an arrangement with them whereby when requests of this nature are made, they take up the matter with a view of effecting a suitable exchange in the place of Officers whose services are required in Canada.

I notice that the University does not desire Colonel Royce's services until October 1st, and there will be ample time for you to take up this matter with Ottawa. In the meantime, you may be sure that we shall endeavor, as far as possible, to meet your wishes.

Yours faithfully,
A E Kemp

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G.,
President of Toronto University,
Toronto, Ont.,
CANADA.

K/I/B.

TELEGRAPHIC AND CABLE ADDRESS
COMINISTER, LONDON

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MINISTRY OF
OVERSEAS MILITARY FORCES OF CANADA
34 GROSVENOR STREET
LONDON, W. 1

FILE NO. I-22.

18th July, 1918.

Dear Sir Robert Falconer:

Captain C. G. Imrie.

I duly received your letter of June 4th, 1918, requesting the return to Canada of the above noted officer to resume his work in the Department of Pathological Chemistry at the University of Toronto.

I took this matter up with my Director of Medical Services here who has agreed to his return.

I am informed that instructions have been issued for him to proceed to Canada by the next available sailing.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,

A E Kemp

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Sir Robert Falconer,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, C A N A D A.

G.

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July 25th, 1918

Sir Edward Kemp, K.C.M.G.,
Overseas Minister of Militia for Canada,
34 Grosvenor Street, London, W.1

Dear Sir:

In the absence of Sir Robert Falconer, who left last week for England, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst. regarding the recall of Lieut-Colonel C. Royce and to say that I have written to Ottawa as you request asking for his recall.

Yours very truly,

President's Secretary.

January 7th, 1919

The Honourable Sir Edward Kemp, K.C.M.G.,
Canadian Overseas Minister of Militia,
London, England.

My dear Sir Edward:

I am getting constantly requests from undergraduates of this University, who are either in the Imperial Forces overseas or who are in our own Canadian Forces, to use our influence to get them returned in order that they may resume their work at the University. I have been shown regulations from the Imperial Authorities to the effect that they will facilitate the demobilisation of such men as are able to resume their university work at once. I have therefore requests from two classes of men: (1) those Canadians who are holding Commissions in the British Army, and (2) members of our own Expeditionary Force. With regard to the first would it be possible for you to take steps with the Imperial Authorities to ask them to allow Canadians of the class I have referred to to get their discharge as soon as possible ? With regard to our own would it be possible to have them returned by the first of April in order that those of them who are in a position to do so may not lose the summer, because if we have a large enough number of returned men to justify summer classes we will undertake to provide for them ? In any case I hope that you will be able to arrange that all Canadian undergraduates shall be returned not later than August in order that they may get

themselves into the condition to resume their work at the opening of the session in September. As you will realise the loss of time for young men at that stage of life is very serious indeed.

Two students in the Faculty of Applied Science have written recently and if you can do anything to facilitate their return, I shall be obliged. Their names are: Captain D. Blake Allan, R.C.A., P.O. XIX Corps, B.A., B.E.F., France, and Private H. B. Orr, B. Company, 3rd Reserve Battalion, N.B.

Wishing you a Happy New Year, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

January 14th, 1918

Sir Edward Kemp,
Ministry of Overseas Military Forces of Canada,
34 Grosvenor Street,
London, W.1
England.

Dear Sir Edward:

I wish to bring to your attention a request from one of our students in the second year of the Faculty of Arts who wishes to return to complete his course in Honour Commerce and Finance. His name is 2nd Lieutenant E. B. Lowndes, 1st Gordon Highlanders, attached to the 50th Battalion Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, B.E.F. France. I shall be glad if you will do what you can with the Imperial Authorities to facilitate his return to Canada.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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34, GROSVENOR STREET,
LONDON, W. 1.

February 4, 1919.

File 12-27.

Dear Sir Robert Falconer,

I have your letter of January 7th, with regard to the early return of university students in our own Forces and also in the Imperial Forces.

Since the Armistice, the requests for priority of return, not only on behalf of individuals but also on behalf of numerous classes of our soldiers such as civil servants, miners and very many other trades and professions, including your own, have been so numerous that it was found necessary to retain in force the policy which existed prior to the Armistice covering the return of soldiers on compassionate grounds.

According to this policy, an application for priority of return must be made through the General Officer Commanding the Military District concerned for the consideration and recommendations of the Department of Militia & Defence, Ottawa. Any attempt to deal otherwise with these very numerous requests would lead to inevitable dissatisfaction and complaints of favoritism on the part of less fortunate soldiers. At the same time it would seriously affect the operation of our general scheme of demobilization, under which we expect to return all our soldiers to Canada as rapidly as they can be received there.

The loss of time that this would mean to students was of course realized, and with a view to offsetting this, an arrangement was effected with universities in this country whereby bona fide students of our own universities are able to carry on with studies here approximating as nearly as possible those which were interrupted by their mobilization. These students receive the pay and allowances of their rank and necessary living allowance at the colleges they attend.

With regard to Canadians who hold commissions in the British Army, unless they were actually on loan in some manner from our own Forces, as many of them are, I would hesitate very much to approach the Imperial authorities on the subject, inasmuch as they would be inclined to regard my action as suggesting a policy regarding people whom I am unauthorized to speak for in any way.

Sir George Perley, however, has effected an arrangement with the Royal Air Force respecting the early return of Canadians to Canada when good reason can be shown for it, and I should think that the War Office might take note of similar representations from him regarding Canadians in the Imperial Army. A letter is therefore being sent to his office today calling attention to the cases of Captain Allan and Private Orr.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

A E Kemp

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G.,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

K/M/B.

P.S. I would esteem it a favor if you would see the Hon. Dr. H.J.Cody, Minister of Education, and discuss the matter with him.

February 14th, 1919

Sir Edward Kemp, K.C.M.G.,
Overseas Minister of Militia,
24 Grosvenor Street, London, W.1.

My dear Sir Edward:

Lieutenant (Acting Captain) J. Roy Cockburn of the 2nd Central Ontario Regiment has been attached for some time for special duty to the Royal Engineers. He has served in Palestine and Egypt and I believe is now awaiting transport to England. Lieutenant Cockburn is a professor on our staff in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, and owing to the large number of returning men in that and other Faculties it has been necessary for us to establish special classes which will run on into the summer. Professor Cockburn's assistance is very much needed at the present time, and the Head of his Department informs me that the need is likely to continue to increase. May I ask you therefore to be good enough to request the Imperial Authorities to have Lieutenant Cockburn to be returned as soon as possible ? His last address as we have it is:

Captain J. Roy Cockburn, "Y" Section, 7th Field Survey Coy. R.E., B.E.F.

Yours sincerely,

President.

34, GROSVENOR STREET,
LONDON, W. 1.

March 3, 1919.

Dear Sir Robert Falconer,

Lt.(A/Capt.) J.R. Cockburn.

I have your letter of the 14th ultimo regarding this officer. He was seconded from our Forces to the Royal Engineers but is now back with his Reserve Battalion in this country, in which case he should be returning to Canada before very long.

I am making inquiries today to see whether this can be arranged, and it is quite probable that he will be used as a Conducting Officer with a draft going from his Depot.

I hope that he will be back with you in time to be of service in the classes which you mention.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

A E Kemp

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G.,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

K/M/B.